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PANAMA MINISTER ON AREA SUMMIT, CONTADORA

PA192052 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Nov 85 pp 1-A, 8-A

[By Robert R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia confirmed today that he has begun official contacts with hemispheric governments to hold a summit meeting to discuss a common front to tackle the foreign debt and other regional socioeconomic problems.

Abadia said he was pleased that during these initial contacts -- MATUTINO has learned that five of them were unofficial -- that there is "a positive attitude" regarding the meeting.

Badia said that the initial soundings were aimed at learning the political wishes of the heads of state and, based on results thus far, plans for the meeting are alive and progressing.

Abadia noted, however, that this is not "a commonplace and ordinary" meeting but one fraught with complex issues for which solutions must be sought to guarantee its success.

Abadia, who made these statements after explaining his structural and administrative budget to the Budget Commission of the Legislative Assembly, did not predict any date for the holding of the summit meeting, which would revive the amphictyonic spirit of Panama according to Simon Bolivar's ideal.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia recently called for this meeting, and 3 months later Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle not only took up the challenge but offered Panama as possible site for this important Latin American summit.

The self-defense of the Central American countries will be the chief topic of the final round of negotiations, which is scheduled to open at 1600 at the Airport Inn in Tocumen and last 3 days. It will be attended by the plenipotentiary representatiges of the area countries and the four deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group.

The foreign minister placed importance on the meeting, explaining that the defense of each area country is closely related to the assurances required by them that they will not be subject to military aggressions by the superpowers.

Referring to Nicaragua, Abadia said that this is a specific and finite [terminable] topic that has even given rise to a refusal to sign peace document if there are not enough guarantees of nonaggression.

In this connection, and regarding Nicaragua's concern as well as the concern of any other country in the area, Abadia said that the "this merits consideration in the same process of political negotiation by Contadora, because it is a negotiable obstacle. [quotation mark as published]

In Abadia's opinion, following the lobbying in Luxembourg among the Contadora and Central American foreign ministers, "optimism exists" that the governments will achieve political solutions to the "terminal point" of self-defense.

The Contadora foreign ministers believe that the signing of the document for peace and cooperation in Central America may be agreed upon by 3 December, when the Latin American foreign ministers will meet in Cartagena de Indias to make reforms in the OAS, and that the signing would take place in under 30 calender [days].

MINISTERS ARRIVE FOR CONTADORA TECHNICAL MEETING

PA200250 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2121 GMT 19 Nov 85

[By Agustin de Gracia]

[Text] Panama City, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaragua insisted today that it will not sign any regional peace treaty lacking a U.S. commitment to "cease its struggle" against the Sandinists. "It is impossible to conceive an effort exclusively between Central Americans without an agreement with the United States by which that country agrees to stop that war," Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has asserted.

Tinoco and his Salvadoran and Costa Rican counterparts, Ricardo Acevedo Peralta and Gerardo Trejos, respectively, arrived in Panama this afternoon to participate in another meeting of the Contadora technical group. The other delegates arrived last night. The three deputy foreign ministers arrived at the Omar Torrijos Airport amid special security measures that included a ban on the entry of newsmen to the airport's diplomatic room, where envoys customarily issue statements.

"Any document to be signed must demand of the United States that it cease its war. This is a basic problem," the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister said.

The plenipotentiary representatives came to the meeting that begins today to review the chapters on maneuvers and arms race, the only ones pending after more than 1 year of work on the Contadora document for peace and cooperation. Nicaragua considers it "suicide" to sign any treaty that will limit its military power without the United States' committing itself to cease its "policy of aggression" against the Sandinists.

Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Gerardo Trejos, however, stated that "the responsibility and the contribution to peace does not depend on what the United States, Cuba, or the Soviet Union may say, but on what the Central Americans say." He did, however, acknowledge the "important role" East-West tensions play in the Central American conflict.

Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said Nicaragua's stand is "propagandistic" and that it presumes an "extracontinental element." However, he pointed out that Tinoco's presence at the meeting "proves" that Nicaragua wants to "continue" with the negotiation process.

Today's meeting will begin on the eye of the deadline established by the Central American countries and the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama) for the conclusion of the draft of the regional peace treaty. In that regard, Acevedo Peralta said: "We must all be realistic and aware of the fact that a negotiated document cannot be drafted under any fatal deadline."

"I believe we all committed the same mistake. We need more time. We will not set a deadline for our work, because the Contadora document is far too important to be enclosed within a fatal deadline," the Salvadoran deputy foreign minister added.

30-Day Extension Proposed

PA200403 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2352 GMT 19 Nov 85

[By Agustin de Gracia]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- The Contadora Group will propose today to the Central American nations a 30-day extension for the peace negotiations in the region and will conclude the effort if an agreement is not reached at the end of the extension. The Contadora negotiations originally set a deadline which expires tomorrow to complete the revision of the regional peace treaty.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias said today: "The original deadline had been set for 20 November. It will now be debated whether or not this deadline will be extended for another 30 days. Nevertheless, there would be only one extension, and that would be it."

Abadia made this statement after opening a technical meeting to try to make some progress on the topics still pending revision in the Contadora peace document regarding military exercises and limitations of military development.

The Panamanian foreign minister said that if the document is not approved within 30 days, "Contadora's activities will come to an end, unless substantially important things occur that justify an extension of the period set for the dialogue."

When the press asked whether this implies the end of the efforts if the document is not approved in 30 days, Abadia stressed: "If nothing else is to be discussed, Contadora would have to submit its report to the United Nations and conclude its work."

The Panamanian foreign minister said briefly: "We just cannot say 20 days now, another 20 days later, and another 20 days even later.... This simply does not work."

Abadia made this statement after pointing out in the meeting he opened that the peace negotiations have reached "a stage of great decisions."

ISRAEL'S SHARON ARRIVES TO HEAD TRADE DELEGATION

PY192100 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1745 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (NA) -- Israeli Industry and Commerce Minister Ari'el Sharon arrived today at the head of a trade delegation made up of officials and private Israeli businessmen to hold a number of meetings with Argentine authorities in an effort to increase bilateral trade.

In remarks at Ezeiza International Airport, Sharon expressed the need to "increase the overall trade" between the two countries, and added that Argentina exports to Israel products worth $40 million and imports $15 million worth. Sharon expressed his satisfaction on visiting Argentina and hoped this trip will contribute to "increasing the participation and cooperation of our countries in bilateral trade."

Asked whether he was trying to increase Israeli exports to Argentina, he answered that "we want to purchase more and sell more." He also expressed confidence "in the reciprocity of trade, that is, in increasing the overall trade between the two countries."

On being told that an Argentine Jewish organization had repudiated his presence in Argentina due to his presumed responsibility in the massacre of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila, he said he was unaware of such a repudiation and added " I did not cooperate in any type of murder. Consequently, there are no complaints about this subject in any form whatsoever," he stated. He said "the Jewish people do not need the approval of anyone about their morals, here or anywhere in the world."

In conclusion, regarding his dispute with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Sharon stated: "I do not deal with domestic political matters when I am in a foreign country," and expressed confidence "in the survival of the Israeli coalition government."

CAPUTO TERMS BAKER PLAN 'POSITIVE, IMPORTANT'

PY192048 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1028 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has stated that, during the UN General Assembly scheduled to begin on 27 November, several countries -- including some countries of other continents -- will present a new project to urge Margaret Thatcher's British Government to sit at the negotiating table to discuss the Malvinas issue. In addition, Caputo warned the British Government that it could suffer a "new international cost" unless it starts talks with Argentina over the Malvinas Islands because not talking would prove once more that "their position is intransigent."

The foreign ministry reasserted that the goal of the Argentine Government during those talks is to be able to raise "the political problem concerning the future of the islands, seeking negotiations to overcome the problem between the two countries." In addition, Caputo warned that "it is inconceivable to hold talks excluding the sovereignty issue because this would mean a betrayal to our electoral mandate, an issue that was also part of our platform." Caputo emphasized the intense diplomatic negotiations being conducted by Argentina to keep the issue alive in international public opinion and "within the United Kingdom," stating that if London does not respond to the resolution of the UN General Assembly "it would be in basic contradiction" as a United Nations founding member.

In statements made last night during the "Interpelacion" program of ATC [Argentina Televisora Color], Caputo admitted that the restrictions imposed in the international market on Argentine exports and the subsidies of the European countries "are some of the most serious problems we have had and will have in the future." In this regard, Caputo stated that the EEC countries "are implementing subsidies which are disguising inefficiencies in their agricultural production, thus competing with us at prices well below the real ones." Caputo noted that "this is paradoxical, because we apparently are the developing countries, but they are the ones who are inefficiently handling state funds."

The foreign minister said that in the face of this situation "we have to advocate a different international trade system at all forums and implement a policy of siding with those countries that are affected by that protectionist policy." Caputo warned that in the event the European countries persist in their attitude "it is possible that the United States will confront them with a similar policy, thus unleashing a price war" on agricultural and livestock products.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Caputo termed the so-called Baker Plan "positive," criticizing those who "are protesting because they say we are not getting funds and when we get the funds claim that those funds lead to dependency." Nevertheless, the Foreign Minister admitted that the funds that the Baker Plan could contribute "are important" but "are not all that is needed" since "they represent one-third of what is being paid annually in interest on the foreign debt." Caputo added that "the plan can partially solve the problem of the attraction of funds but there are other unresolved problems left like the return of capital, international trade, and the funds earmarked for the foreign debt payments."

Asked about the conditions the Baker Plan will reportedly impose on the Argentine economy, Caputo said that "the plan does not have more demands than the ones we have had thus far," stressing that the policy implemented in Argentina after the signing of the agreements with the IMF "is different from the one the IMF demanded of the debtor countries and that is a sign that we are in a position to discuss those conditions to adapt them to the Argentine needs, both economic and social." Caputo said: "At any rate, the plan may be a recognition of the seriousness with which our country is working and, in that regard, it may signify a contribution to our country which, no doubt, is not all that necessary."

Nevertheless, Caputo insisted "the main program concerns the debt," stating that "we cannot conceive that all the national efforts are aimed at adjusting the economy in order to pay the debt." In that regard, Caputo stressed the need "to strive to achieve better living conditions," since "the day that we stop feeling that our efforts are meant to achieve better living conditions and progress we will fall into stagnation and a lack of incentive."

FLOODING, EVACUATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE

PY192338 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Nov 85 p 1

[Excerpts] (DYN-NA) The next 48 hours will be crucial for many parts of the Province of Buenos Aires. Up to now more than 50,000 people have been evacuated from their homes. Incalculable numbers of livestock and one third of land under crops has been lost according to latest reports. National and provincial government officials yesterday hastily conferred on plans to follow, as government and military helicopters flew sorties to keep the situation under observation and to carry out rescue operations while widespread rain continued to fall.

Public Works Minister Roberto Tomasini yesterday set up a commission to coordinate the evacuation of and aid for flood victims and to study the development of the situation in the worst affected zones, using from satellite information in coordination with the national weather bureau.

The tourist town of Epecuen in the south-west of the province is practically all under water and has been almost totally evacuated. Water has risen nearly two metres in Guamini and Carhue and the situation in and around these two towns is critical.

Water covers most of the suburban area of Dolores, where 500 mm of rain fell in a week, and schools are closed but banks, shops and commercial premises are open for business. National highway 2 is still cut and cattle seeking safety on high ground are wandering along it. Provincial highways 33 and 65 are also cut while highways 3 and 11 are open. The situation looks grim in Dolores as a great quantity of water heading for the Atlantic will pass through this district and local authorities continue to hastily build dykes and dams.

Hundred of thousands of the finest farmland went under water in the district of La Madrid when the Ameghino dam burst its banks. Vast areas of wheat, corn and sunflower have been lost. Military helicopters were used to rescue people from isolated areas.

In Greater Buenos Aires the situation is stable but threatening as the Rio Reconquista is rising at about 4 cms an hour and authorities are continuing to evacuate people from low lying areas along its banks. The Ruggero and other dams on the Reconquista have withstood the floods so far. Large parts of Merlo and Moreno have no gas or electricity.

The Rio Lujan subsided more than a metre yesterday after leaving thousands homeless. Many people refused to leave their homes as looters had begun their rounds and police are reported to have fired on and chased some of them in speedboats.

Although Pasqual Astigueta, provincial minister of health denied it, outbreaks of chickenpox, mumps, respiratory and digestive illness have been reported from different parts of the province.

ARMY, AIR FORCE END 9-DAY JOINT EXERCISES

PY192348 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Nov 85 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) -- Corrientes -- Army 2nd Corps tank and armoured units as well as about 2,000 ground-troops yesterday ended nine days of training skirmishes in combination with an Air Force 3rd Brigade bomber unit in the locality of Monte Caseros, 500 kilometres southeast of here.

Following government guidelines to modernize the Army, 80-90 percent of those who took part in the manoeuvres -- most of which were held at night -- were commissioned and non-commissioned officers, 50 percent of which saw action during the 1982 South Atlantic conflict. Twenty 2nd Army Corps units engaged in the mock battles, which also deployed Sherman tanks and Air Force Pucara bombers, as well as a special frogman brigade.

Corps commander General Jorge Goleri, calling the maneouvres "outstanding," said his men had overcome the frustration suffered in the Malvinas war defeat. "My men have received perfect military training," Goleri said, adding that to the extent men in the Armed Forces "are better soldiers we will be better Argentines."

At the same time the Air Force has also begun maneouvres, which will include "most of its combat units". The maneouvres, to end on Friday this week, are taking place in central Buenos Aires Province.

GOVERNMENT-LABOR TALKS RESUME 19 NOVEMBER

PY200229 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 85

[Excerpt] The dialogue between the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] and the government resumed at 1500 today, 19 November, through their authorized spokesmen. At the end of the meeting, which lasted approximately 3 hours, the reporters were told that they had agreed to continue the talks during the next few days.

Walter Delgadillo, the COB secretary general, has stated that the government of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] is not adopting the necessary measures to face the crisis. He added that the government's method of facing the crisis will not find any solution at all. He thus made known the COB's points of view during the meeting with authorities of the current government.

[Begin Delgadillo recording] We feel that problems such as inflation must be solved. But the cost of solving this problem will be too high for the people, because we feel that the manner of attacking the crisis is incorrect. A solution supposes an improvement in the current situation in the country as a whole. It could be no other way. This is the COB's point of view, and we want to discuss it with the government in these meetings. [end recording]

Planning and Coordination Minister Guillermo Bedregal stated the following during the meeting: We feel that the opinion of the organized workers is important as a factor for seeking solutions to the serious problems affecting the country. He then referred to the objectives of the executive decree approved on 29 August 1985. In this regard, Bedregal stated:

[Begin Bedregal recording] The objectives of the plan are by no means partial or sectoral objectives that apply exclusively to certain areas of the economy. The new economic policy is also a political program. [end recording]

MINISTER VIEWS EFFECTS OF TIN PRICE SLUMP

PY192053 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Nov 85

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Mines and Metallurgy Minister Sinforoso Cabrera has told Radio Illimani that 5,900 tons of tin worth $69 million are stockpiled in Bolivia and in maritime ports. The minister said the 5,900 tons of tin were to have been exported between September and December, as was scheduled by the Bolivian Mining Corporation [Comibol]. However, in view of the world market crisis, the export schedule will have to be changed.

The minister said that this quantity of tin is worth $69 million at an average price of $5 per pound of fine tin. He noted that this estimate should be reduced because the price is expected to be $3.70 per pound. Therefore, the 5,900 tons will be sold for less than $23 million, thus seriously harming the economy of the Bolivian state mining company. Cabrera added that this situation will also harm the state, which will lose $8 million in unpaid mining royalties.

These figures are tangible evidence of the damage inflicted on our economy by the abrupt tin price slump, which will also cause social problems in the short term. In this regard, the government will have to carefully outline actions that will be taken, because 27,999 miners and their families -- a total of 140,000 people -- live on the salaries paid by Comibol and demand immediate and responsible action.

Finally, the minister pointed out that the main problems confronted by the government are the multiplying effects of the crisis, rather than the loss in unpaid mining royalties.

Comibol Closes Some Operations

PY191456 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] The Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol] is facing one of its worst crises ever, having discontinued operations in some of its plants for lack of funds. FSTMB [Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers] Secretary General Victor Lopez Arias is now providing the following report:

[Begin recording] Yes, Comibol seems to be facing a serious financial crisis, which is why it is unable to fulfill obligations arising from day-to-day operations. Last week, Comibol reported that the Oruro metallurgical plant had to discontinue operations because of lack of funds. The Bolivar Blast Furnace has also been put out of operation while the La Palca plant is about to shut down. I understand that now [words indistinct] [end recording]

This is the picture at the country's leading mining enterprise while studies continue concerning decentralization and the implementation of important projects, such as those at the Bolivar and the Colas y Desmontes mines.

ARMY COMMANDER SAYS 'ENOUGH COUPS DE'ETAT'

PY191724 Paris AFP in Spanish 0258 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] La Paz, 18 Nov (AFP) -- Speaking on the occasion of the Army anniversary, Army Commander in Chief General Raul Lopez Leyton said the country has had enough coups d'etat, uprisings, and anarchy. In the presence of President Victor Paz Estenssoro, Gen Lopez Leyton said the soldiers of the fatherland will defend the Constitution and carry out their duties without asking the state or the community for any special privileges. He added that the modernization of the Army must stay in step with the country's progress. Later on General Lopez Leyton decorated the president with the Order of Freedom Fighter General Jose Miguel Lanza. Speaking to the press, Paz Estenssoro said he was very proud to wear this military decoration. After the ceremony Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle recalled that all the nation's historical developments are closely linked to the nation's military history.

MINISTER SAYS PEASANTS SHOULD ACCEPT COCA PLAN

PY162122 Paris AFP in Spanish 1417 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] La Paz, 16 Nov (AFP) -- Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy today criticized peasant organizations which lack legal recognition and which oppose eliminating coca cultivation in the Chimore and Yapacani zones (in central and eastern Bolivia). Coca is used to produce cocaine. Barthelemy said this criticism is supported by those who recognize the leadership of Genaro Flores, of the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers [Csutcb], whose members have demanded $3,000 for each hectare of coca cultivation that is eliminated.

Victor Paz Estenssoro's government has signed an agreement with the U.S. Government, under which $350 per hectare will be paid. The producers consider that amount too low. Barthelemy took advantage of the opportunity to point out that the main sector affected by the elimination of coca cultivation will not be the peasants but the drug traffickers, who take the largest share of the profits of this illegal activity.

GOVERNOR TERMS QUADROS ELECTION 'REVERSAL'

PY191550 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Speaking last night on Sao Paulo's state television network, Governor Franco Montoro said that the election victory of Janio Quandros is a political reversal because of the unity of rightist and extreme rightist forces and because of the split of (?progressive) forces.

NO OBSTACLES SEEN TO QUADROS' MUNICIPAL GUARD

PY191758 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Colonel Newton Viana, commander of the Military Police, said yesterday that there is nothing to prevent the establishment of a municipal guard, as Janio Quadros, Sao Paulo's mayor-elect, said he would do. Viana explained that the functions of the Municipal Guard will not be the same as those of the Military Police. According to the commander of the Military Police, the unarmed municipal guards may watch municipal buildings, parks, gardens, and schools but will not have police powers. They cannot engage in widespread police surveillance or control traffic.

Newton Viana emphasized that the Military Police do more than control traffic. This year, through 31 October, the military police assisted in more than 1,000 cases unrelated to traffic accidents.

Public Security Secretary Michel Tremmer said that the Constitution would have to be amended if the municipal guard were to have police powers. According to Temmer, once the municipal guard is created, it will be subordinate to the Military Police.

GOLD RESERVES TO BE KEPT IN COUNTRY

PY191201 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1620 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 17 Nov (EFE) -- Carlos Eduardo Freitas, director of the Central Bank's foreign sector, has stated that Brazil will keep its gold reserves, which are currently abroad, in Urazil. It will also keep the reserves of other countries that may so desire. The autonomy in the custody of reserves can represent, according to analysts, an important victory in international economic-financial relations in the case of serious disagreements, such as decreeing the moratorium of the current foreign debt ($104 billion) or the severance of political relations.

Brazil has no intention of breaking with its current international creditors but believes there is nothing to justify keeping its gold reserves, currently estimated at $888.2 million, in foreign banks.

MERINO DISCUSSES NAVAL INDUSTRY, LOCAL ISSUES

PY190302 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Government Junta member Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, the Navy commander in chief, has said that thanks to the Talcahuano shipbuilding facilities, our country will be able to replace four torpedo boats and a cargo ship, the (?"Quile"), next year. The operational period of these five units has already passed. Adm Merino added that Chile can build ships of up to 55,000 tons and that it can even build submarines. However, the main problem is the lack of buyers for such products, he said, which is why Asmar [Naval Docks and Yards] has opened commercial offices in 17 countries where efforts are being made to open new markets.

At noon today the Navy commander began touring the 12th Region, where he will go as far as Puerto Williams. In this city he will attend a ceremony marking the anniversary of the founding of the Chilean Antarctic Province capital. He will also dedicate a direct satellite television transmission system. Upon arrival in the region in the company of his wife, Mrs Margarita Riofrio de Merino, the commander in chief was greeted by Magallanes intendant Major General Luis Lanus, 3d Naval Zone Commander in Chief Rear Admiral Fernando (Cabutcher) and high-ranking regional, provincial, and municipal officials.

Concerning the replacement of the torpedo boats and the cargo ship (?"Quile"), and the future of the Chilean naval industry, Adm Merino said:

[Begin recording] The Chilean Navy can build ships of up to 55,000 tons in Talcahuano. In March 1986, we will begin building a new 3,500-ton cargo ship that will replace the (?"Quile"). [passage indistinct] I would say that the tropedo boats are too old. We can also build two missile boats in Talcahuano [words indistinct] the four torpedo boats' [words indistinct] we maintain the naval power we need for the security of the internal channels, both in northern and in (?southern) Chile. We can also build submarines if we wish. But we need a buyer. [words indistinct] at this moment have opened branches in 17 countries to sell their products. There are several difficulties in this sector, in which high commissions are paid to [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Adm Merino stressed the Navy's concern over the construction of the new Punta Arenas Port.

The Navy commander in chief also said that relations with Argentina are excellent. He reported on the Chilean Government's effort to populate the Beagle area. In this regard, he said better results would have been obtained had the respective ministry already issued the necessary regulations. Merino added that according to the recently promulgated law on the national merchant marine, 50 percent of all cargoes should be transported by Chilean ships, and this facility can be used by Argentina, which has considerable territory and few ports, provided Chilean laws are respected. The Navy commander pointed out that this law will help our merchant marine grow, that it will intensify port activities, and that it will create new jobs.

Concerning a statement by Minister Francisco Javier Cuadra on the fact that the influence of what the government has done will extend beyond 1989, Merino said the institutional order has given rise to a modern and efficient political management system. He added the effects of this system have already become noticeable in several aspects of the national life, and the system will perpetuate itself. As an example, he mentioned the Chilean agricultural sector, which has turned into a pillar of our economy through adequate laws and proper support action. In a short time, we could even become sugar exporters, he said.

Mr and Mrs Merino will attend the regional olympic games for disabled children that the Coanil [expansion unknown] will sponsor in this capital next Friday.

POLITICAL REALITY OUTLINED FOR NEW U.S. ENVOY

PY200014 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 13 Nov 85 p 2

[From the "Opinions" column by Gustavo Cuevas Farren; "Chile-United States: Ties That Unite"]

[Text] The new U.S. ambassador, who has just arrived in the country to take up his post, has reminded us in concise, clear, and friendly greetings addressed to all Chileans from the airport that the two nations "share many common experiences and aspirations", and this is the reason why he will try, in his capacity as the official representative of his government, to "preserve the many and important links uniting us and to seek new areas for cooperation serving the interests and values of our two peoples."

I have no doubt that Ambassador Barnes, supported by his solid diplomatic experience and by the patient and extensive studies he has made of Chilean reality over a period of months, must be convinced that the permanent interests of the two countries and their national cultural values are perfectly compatible, and that they even complement each other, at least in the long term. In effect, in both countries there exists the undeniable aspiration to achieve -- in Chile's case -- or of perfecting -- in the case of the United States -- a way of life based on a freedom that will help the simultaneous or the harmonious development of the material and spiritual conditions of the people through a system of government that is based on the political values of the West.

If this is the diplomat's reasoning, then I believe that it will be easy for him to appreciate that the final objective, or goal, of the current Chilean institutional process (or stage of transition) is none other than that of again consolidating in our fatherland a vigorous and stable democracy to participate in the Western world and which will be protected from those minority but aggressive political forces or sectors that once again are trying to drag us toward the orbit of Soviet materialism's influence.

Ambassador Barnes must also have understood that the path still to be followed in order to achieve that goal is a difficult one, and it will become even more difficult if the various sectors, with their leaders that oppose the country's current government, insist on not participating, either covertly or overtly, in the process that has been outlined in the 1980 Constitution to achieve these aims. In this respect, there is no intention of trying to stop those sectors, or leaders, (or for that matter any Chilean) from having the power or the possibility to seek certain modifications to that constitution, which, as with any other legal instrument that serves the individual, must never remain static. But yes, there is the intention to make it understood that there will be no peaceful coexistence nor real progress toward full democracy in our country while current legal legislation, including the Constitution, is systematically ignored or attacked.

Without a doubt, the above mentioned reasoning is a key aspect of the Chilean political problem, and I believe that it must have the same importance for the new U.S. Ambassador. After all, in his message of greetings he also recalled that the independent democracy and history of his nation are reflected in the solemn "Bill of Rights" of the end of the 18th century.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR ON AIRCRAFT INCIDENT

PA200355 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Francisco Quinonez, Nicaraguan ambassador to Colombia, has denied that his government prevented two British helicopters carrying aid to the victims of the volcano eruption in Colombia from refueling. A Nicaraguan Embassy communique says that the two helicopters had to land at a secondary airport, but it does not explain why it was 24 hours before they were allowed to land.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan official newspapers are definitely being hostile and aggressive toward the Colombian Government and disrespectful to President Betancur, carrying distorted headlines and criticisms of our president, whom they accused of legitimizing the drug traffickers' mafia, which later turned around and betrayed him. The Sandinist government and its official newspapers' attitude toward the Colombian Government is definitely unjust, because the world knows of the Colombian Government's efforts through the Contadora Group to prevent a bloody war in Central America, in which Nicaragua itself would be the main victim.

Explanation Accepted

PA200358 Paris AFP in Spanish 2159 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Bogota, 19 Nov (AFP) -- It has been officially announced that Colombia has accepted as satisfactory the explanations given by Nicaragua in connection with an incident involving two British helicopters bringing aid for the victims in Armero. Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez said today that the incident, which occurred Sunday when the Sandinist government would not authorize the aircraft to refuel in Managua, is completely over.

Ramirez said that the Nicaraguan authorities had explained to Abelardo Duarte, the Colombian ambassador in Managua, that the aircraft had not been able to land because there was no fuel supply and because the area involved was somewhat dangerous. He added that after returning to their base in Belize, the two Puma helicopters were authorized to land in Managua, where they were refueled, and they continued en route to Colombia.

"What happened was that the authorization arrived late, and the flight was delayed only 1 day," the Colombian foreign minister said in conclusion.

FORMER PRESIDENTS URGE UNITY, 'DETERMINATION'

PA192135 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Former presidents of the Republic have urged all Colombians to set aside their political parties' controversies and replace them with all the courage and determination necessary to cope with the attacks by the enemies of democracy and the misfortunes of nature. President Belisario Betancur called the meeting attended by Carlos Lleras Restrepo, Alberto Lleras Camargo, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Misael Pastrana Borrero, and Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, who discussed the country's current situation and issued a communique.

Only by acting with patriotism, without hesitation, with an awareness of duty and responsibilities which are now solemn and definite for the country's life and the cause of [words indistinct], will we be able to ensure the continuity of our nationality and the Consittution, struggling for [words indistinct], said the document.

There is a basic commitment of all fellow countrymen to [word indistinct] in a democratic order and that is to defend the institutions [words indistinct] and without committing the autonomy of [words indistinct]. It is to maintain within the [word indistinct] supporting the values of our nationality. We are deeply committed to this principle. The document adds that, aware of the seriousness of the political, economic, and social situation prevailing in the country, we invite the government, the Congress, the judicial branch, the political parties, and the productive and labor sectors to seek the necessary steps that will lead to the adequate formulas to provide deep and opportune solutions to these situations within an atmosphere of understanding, with the urgency required by the terrible catastrophe of Tolima [word indistinct].

FENAC SAYS COFFEE QUOTA TO BE FULFILLED

PA192306 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Colombia has guaranteed to the world's coffee consumers that the disaster in the Departments of Caldas and Tolima will not affect the fulfillment of the coffee quota assigned to it. The National Federation of Colombian Coffee Growers, FENAC, has reported that it has in stock 11 million bags of coffee and that the next crop should yield 1 million more bags. FENAC also confirmed its participation in reconstruction in the zones devastated by the Arenas volcano. FENAC President Jorge Cardenas Gutierrez said:

[Begin recording] FENAC is making a full study of all the plans in which its participation is important and necessary. FENAC will contribute money, equipment, human resources, and in any other way to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the zones affected by the tragedy.

FENAC today began promoting activities with the participation of all its employees and organizations to raise funds for investments and other tasks for the disaster zones. When the coffee growers meet next Monday we will discuss the establishment of an emergency fund to cooperate with the government and other institutions' programs for the disaster zones. FENAC's committees throughout the country are cooperating with the Minute of God fund raising banquet for housing programs in the zones that are to be reconstructed. [end recording]

VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI STOPS EN ROUTE TO MIAMI

PA191511 Paris AFP in Spanish 1350 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Bogota, 19 Nov (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi arrived in Bogota at 1330 GMT on a stopover en route to Miami and met with his Colombian colleague Belisario Betancur. Lusinchi and Betancur met at the Catam Military Airport in Bogota.

The Venezuelan president stopped over in Bogota to express the solidarity of his government and peoples with the Colombian peoples over the tragedy at Armero, which was buried by a volcanic eruption on 13 November.

GARCIA SUPPORTS FOREIGN CAPITAL OIL INVESTMENTS

PY182155 Paris AFP in Spanish 0021 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Lima, 16 Nov (AFP) -- Today in Lima, President Alan Garcia stressed the importance of inducing foreign capital to invest in Peru under fair terms following the nationalistic policies of the PRC, Vietnam, and other countries. Regarding the oil fields, he said it is not just a matter of opening our doors to allow the foreign companies as much profit as they want, as occurred in the past, or to close our doors to them, but we must negotiate with a sense of nationalism, responsibility, and realism.

President Alan Garcia made these comments during an informal press conference in which he talked about the negotiations that are being conducted with the U.S. companies Occidental Petroleum, Belco Petroleum, and the Oxi-Bridas consortium over signing new contracts after the government annulled the previous ones on 28 August. After saying that the revolution and the government must be realistic, Garcia added he could simply tell the companies to leave, but as a result he would only create an international problem and sanctions against Peru that would deprive us of the resources we need.

Garcia explained that the oil companies were exempted from paying taxes so they could make further investments into exploration, but they wrongfully used this exemption and exploited Peruvian crude instead. This is an example of the abuse of a privilege, which is why their contracts were annulled. We are now negotiating new terms under which they will be able to stay, the president said. He stated that one of the conditions will be that the money wrongfully invested in exploiting crude must be reinvested in prospecting -- about $626,859,000 among the three companies. This is a really nationalistic condition that is drastic for the companies, he said.

Replying to a reporter's question, the president said that to tell the oil companies to leave would be easy, and he could say that from a balcony holding a flag, but I am not irresponsible, childish, or unrealistic, he declared. President Garcia said the doors to foreign capital could not be closed because we would lose credits for constructing hydroelectric dams and irrigation projects. We must try to make foreign capital invest in Peru under fair conditions and a nationalism that does not close doors.

A journalist then commented that in this manner President Alan Garcia recalled the doctrine of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance party founded by Raul Haya de la Torre which maintains an ambivalent attitude toward capitalism.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON GENEVA SUMMIT

PY191636 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner today reasserted President Alan Garcia's proposal to hold a summit of Latin American presidents in Panama for discussions of the present crisis and regional measures aimed at stopping and reversing the regressive economic situation.

Moreover, Wagner expressed his hope that the Gorbachev-Reagan summit will contribute to the establishment of new basis for international peace and security because the issues to be discussed affect all humanity.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Sir, what can you tell us about the U.S.-Soviet summit?

[Wagner] Well, we hope that this important meeting will yield specific (?decisions), which will lead to detente between the great powers and contribute to the establishment of new bases for international peace and security. The issues to be discussed in this summit affect the interests of all humanity, not only those of the great powers. Therefore, we hope that the result of this summit can be closely evaluated at the United Nations so that all countries may take part in the decision-making process on those issues concerning international peace and security. This is what we refer to as the democratization of international relations, and it is one of the principles guiding our foreign policy. [end recording]

ANTI-DRUG OPERATION CONDOR III SUCCESSFUL

PY191301 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Lima, 16 Nov (AFP) -- Interior Ministry authorities have reported here that in a new blow to drug trafficking, three clandestine airports, sophisticated radio equipment, weapons, and 15 tanks for retting and breaking green leaves were found by police today in Operation Condor III, in the jungle sector of Sion, San Martin.

This police operation, backed by the participation of the Juanjui Provincial prosecutor whose name has not been revelaed, netted a Peruvian Army uniform, 200 kg of sulphuric acid, 300 gallons of kerosene, and spare parts for airplanes, an Interior Ministry source reported.

Airports with runways of 1400, 900, and 800 meters were found. One of them was dynamited, it was reported. Police also destroyed retting tanks and other materials found at the site.

These police actions against drug trafficking in the Amazon began on 19 August 1985 under the name Operation Condor I, with the decisive intervention of the Colombian police and the DEA (the U.S. anti-drug organization). At that time, the largest complex in the heart of the Amazon Jungle, near Callaru and Caballococha, on the border with Colombia, was discovered. The police also found some 10 airports, 5 airplanes, 3,000 kg of cocaine, and other items.

In the Condor II operation, on 13 September 1985 in the San Lorenzo islands, at the Colombian border, eight airports were also found, in addition to helicopters, speed boats, three laboratories, houses, and other installations. This operation also had the support of Colombia and of the DEA.

CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES ARRIVE TO SET UP EMBASSY

PY182114 Paris AFP in Spanish 1545 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Montevideo, 18 Nov (AFP) -- A Cuban delegation made up of a diplomat and a government official arrived in Uruguay a few hours ago to establish a Cuban Embassy in Montevideo following the restoration of relations between the two countries.

Francisco Piedra Recurrel, first secretary of the future Cuban Embassy, said it will be a small embassy, but it will be staffed by experienced representatives who will strengthen the new Uruguayan-Cuban relations. The Cuban representative stated that the exchange between the two countries will play a preponderant role and asserted that he knew nothing about a future visit Cuban President Fidel Castro would pay to Uruguay.

Diplomatic relations between Havana and Montevideo were restored several weeks ago, and commercial relations were renewed when the democratic system was inaugurated in Uruguay on 1 March 1985.

PRESIDENT MEETS ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER

PY162207 Paris AFP in Spanish 0430 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Nov (AFP) -- Government spokesmen told AFP that the case of a Uruguayan student recently kidnapped in Buenos Aires by an alleged extreme right-wing commando group was the main topic of discussion during the surprise visit to Uruguay by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. Caputo arrived in Montevideo this morning and had lunch with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias.

According to the sources, the subjects discussed by the three officials dealt with economic issues but mainly with the double kidnapping some days ago of medical student Gladys Langlois, a member of cultural organization of politicians in exile known as Contracanto. Langlois was abducted twice and tortured by three men who advised her to give up her political activities.

In Buenos Aires, lawyers of the Human Rights Permanent Assembly termed this case one of the most serious in Argentina since Raul Alfonsin's democratic government was installed. In recent weeks, extremist attacks increased in Argentina to the point that the government was compelled to decree a state of siege and demand the arrest of 12 people allegedly involved in the attacks. Among the most prominent people whose arrest was ordered was former General Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason, charged by the magazine HUMOR with involvement in an organization known as Omega, which is engaged in destabilization activities.

Omega's plans had also been denounced in Montevideo by Argentine lawyer Jorge Banos, who said the group had its headquarters in Miami, and it intended to carry out coups in Argentina and Uruguay. In Uruguay, leftist Senator Hugo Batalla reported the existence of destabilization groups, which various sources have linked to Suarez Mason and the P-2 Masonic Lodge. Humberto Ortolani, the number-two man in the P-2 Lodge -- currently in Sao Paulo -- in letter to several Montevideo newspapers, denied knowing anything about the announced destabilization plans and said he has never maintained contact with the Argentine general, whom he only saw once. However, HUMOR magazine again charged that Ortolani had held talks with one of the main leaders of the organization and a former commander in chief of the Uruguayan Army.

According to information obtained by a weekly published by the Blanco Party, a committee of the Brazilian, Argentine, and Uruguayan intelligence services was formed. It is in permanent session and acts to stop any organization that plans to carry out coups.

An official communique this evening disclosed that the kidnapped student had returned to Uruguay, escorted by embassy authorities and protected by policemen. The communique also stated that after being kidnapped, Gladys Langlois had received protection from Argentine authorities and that the Uruguayans looked into her case and requested information from the Argentine Interior Ministry. The document states that after officials became aware of her situation they invited her to stay in the Uruguayan Embassy.

TUPAMAROS LEADER FOUND GUILTY OF HOMICIDE

PY152210 Paris AFP in Spanish 0431 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Montevideo, 14 Nov (AFP) -- Court sources have revealed that Raul Sendic, leader and top ideologist of the National Liberation Movement (MLN-Tupamaros) has been found guilty of first-degree murder by the civilian court that tried him. In view of this verdict, Sendic would have to serve 20 years in prison, but this will not happen because the former guerrilla has benefited from the amnesty law that the Uruguayan Congress and Government promulgated in April. According to this law, each year of imprisonment served is counted for 3 years.

According to court sources, the ruling was based on the defendant's responsibility for an operation to take over a rural town in 1969. Sendic's lawyer Hugo Batalla has the right to appeal this sentence on grounds of constitutionality, the sources added. Sendic was last arrested in 1972 and sentenced by a military court to 45 years imprisonment in August 1984.

DEFENSE MINISTER ATTACKS LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS

PY152134 Paris AFP in Spanish 0531 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Montevideo, 14 Nov (AFP) -- Uruguayan Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino today revealed that there are extreme left-wing organizations that want to destabilize Uruguay's democratic system. The minister said there are left-wing extremists and quite possibly also right-wing extremists, but the latter have no influence because nobody pays any attention to them.

Chiarino's remarks came in the wake of a report published by a communist morning daily, which included a list of military officers and policemen allegedly involved in human rights violations. The minister indicated that unfortunately, the list has been published hastily because so far, there have been no trials or sentences. According to Chiarino, the list includes individuals who have nothing to do with human rights violations or truly reprehensible repressive actions.

After voicing his concern over these developments, the veteran politician, now 84, called for a more reasonable enjoyment of freedom and said that left-wing extremists have at their disposal many news media and make use of them to disseminate this kind of idea, which according to Chiarino are unsuitable and groundless.

LUSINCHI, FEBRES CORDERO SIGN JOINT DECLARATION

PA190429 Paris AFP in Spanish 2016 GMT 18 Nov 85

[By Jorge Calmet Wagner]

[Text] Caracas, 18 Nov (AFP) -- Presidents Leon Febres Cordero of Ecuador and Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela today exhorted the superpowers to advance in nuclear disarmament, condemned terrorism, and voiced their solidarity with Colombia over the Armero tragedy. The signing of a joint declaration was the last official act of the Ecuadoran chief of state on his 5-day official visit to Venezuela, prior to his departure for Santo Domingo for a 3-day visit to the Dominican Republic.

Referring to the meeting in Geneva of President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, they exhorted them "to reach agreements that may permit a substantial reduction and future elimination of nuclear weapons, to show their authentic willingness to advance in the path of peace."

Meanwhile, they stated that outer space and the geostationary orbit "should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all states, respecting the rights of the equatorial states," in clear opposition to Reagan's "star wars" program.

Febres Cordero met with Lusinchi on two occasions to review the main domestic and Latin American issues. Although OPEC was not mentioned in the joint declaration, the Ecuadoran president made commitments in Caracas to make efforts to strengthen it, despite differences with OPEC over raising Ecuador's oil production to 285,000 barrels daily, above the 187,000-barrel level fixed by the cartel. Febres Cordero said Saturday that Ecuador will do everything possible, not only to remain in OPEC, but to help in the search for a solution to pacify crude producers. Today at a news conference he described his country's increased production as a matter of life or death for his fellow countrymen. He had said earlier that the increase served development purposes and not warlike ones, as in the case of Iran and Iraq; that Ecuador was a "small producer" of OPEC which should be afforded preferential treatment such as that granted by the Andean Pact.

His Venezuelan hosts did not comment on the issue, despite the fact that just before the last OPEC conference the minister of energy and mines, Arturo Hernandez, said that its experts considered a quota increase impossible, that the only way to do so would be though a reduction by another country.

The chiefs of state stressed that an adequate global restructuring process of the basic instruments of the inter-American system will permit easier achievement of its objectives. They hailed the Guatemalan elections, and after expressing their "awareness of the need to fully promote democracy and properly organized disarmament" in Central America, they reaffirmed their support for the peace efforts of the Contadora Group. They exhorted all the parties in conflict to sign the document for peace and cooperation of Contadora "as proof of their desire for peace."

Referring to Nicaragua, which is now refusing to sign the document until the United States stops "its aggression" and with which Ecuador broke diplomatic relations recently, Febres Cordero declared that he would not take "any initiative" because, he noted, the statements of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had violated his country's sovereignty.

Ortega called Febres Cordero an instrument of the United States to divide Latin America concerning Central American pacification after Febres Cordero referred to the need for authentic democratization in Nicaragua to achieve peace in Central America.

This issue will be one of the main points of discussion between Febres Cordero and his Dominican colleague, Salvador Jorge Blanco, since both countries had planned to join the Contadora Group before the break in relations between Ecuador and Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Lusinchi and Febres Cordero committed themselves to strengthening SELA, which this year celebrated its 10th anniversary. They also expressed concern over the "rapid advance of drug trafficking and consumption" and reiterated their efforts to fight it in every way. They particularly emphasized their "strong rejection" of terrorism and renewed their decision to intensify every effort to eliminate it, in clear support for Colombian President Belisario Betancur concerning the occupation by the M-19 [19 April Movement] of the Supreme Court of Justice in Bogota.

They also said they were "moved" by the tragedy of the eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano and expressed their "deep sorrow" and their "solidarity with the people and Government of Colombia in this hour of affliction."

With his visit to Venezuela, Febres Cordero also achieved the elimination of visa requirements for diplomatic passports of officials of both countries and a bilateral commercial agreement for some $20 million, which ended problems of protectionism by both countries. Finally, he invited Lusinchi to visit his country, which the latter accepted with "special satisfaction."

PCV PRESIDENT-ELECT FARIA ON PARTY CONGRESS

PA190402 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 Oct 85, D-3

[By Rosa Ustariz]

[Excerpts] While it has been said in political circles that the Communist Party of Venezuela's [PCV] 8th Congress, held recently, only postponed the party's internal crisis and that it did not bring about changes that would end the clear struggle between orthodox members and renovation-oriented intellectuals, Jesus Faria, the president-elect of the red party, has stressed that "important changes did occur, and everything is in order."

Calmly yet firmly, Faria answers the newswoman's remarks: "Why should we change? With the dollar at 14.60, we have to wait for a low." He says this ironically, then, more seriously, he asserts: There was a change. I don't know what the people want. They have been commenting on whether or not we would leave the party.... Yet how could we leave the party if it is our home? Look, I was the one most surprised by my comrades' great love for me. I feel proud to occupy the position vacated by Comrade Gustavo Machado. I was chosen by acclamation. Mine was the only election that was not secret. This happens only in a party that knows its values, regardless of its internal disputes.

Faria later noted the changes decided on by his party. He said that Alonso Ojeda Olaechea, the new secretary general, is an old fighter in the party, and he occupied this same position clandestinely during the regimes of both Perez Jimenez and Romulo Betancourt.

In addition, a smaller Politburo is formed by seven principal members and two [as published] alternates, headed by the secretary general and the president.

Politburo elected during the 8th Congress: Principals: Jesus Faria (president), Alonso Ojeda Olaechea (secretary general), Pedro Ortega Diaz, Eduardo Gallegos Mancera, Radames Larrazabal, Trino Melean, and Silvino Varela. Alternates: Ali Morales, Luis Ciano, and Jose Manuel Carrasquel.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED, SYRIANS ARRESTED -- Caracas, 9 Nov (DPA) -- The Venezuelan police have seized 3 kg of cocaine and several vehicles from a band of Syrian and Colombian drug-traffickers in Maracaibo, capital of Zulia State, on the border with Colombia. The organization was composed of Syrians Naber Karabit, Nauhad Corbet, Nidal Garabet, and a minor who has not been identified, and Colombians Carlos Manuel Croles and Alejandro Paz, according to the police. [Text] [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1726 GMT 9 Nov 85 PA]

COCAINE CONFISCATED IN CARACAS -- Caracas, 2 Nov (DPA) -- Caracas police last night arrested Colombian Alirio Sanchez Bolivar in a hotel near Caracas when 15 kg of cocaine were found in one of his suitcases. He was planning to travel to Miami. [Summary] [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1634 GMT 2 Nov 85 PA]

'INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKER' ARRESTED -- The National Guard's Intelligence Division has captured an international drug trafficker sought by Interpol. He was identified as Jose Antonio Gonzalez Ferreira, a Spanish citizen who was carrying 350 grams of cocaine. Gonzalez Ferreira was preparing to leave for the United States prior to his arrest. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 21 Oct 85 p 4-32 PA]

GAS SALES TO JAPAN -- Caracas, 4 Nov (AFP) -- For 1 year Venezuela will sell 200,000 metric tons of propane gas worth $40 million to Japan, oil industry sources reported today in Caracas. The agreement was signed by Maraven, a subsidiary of Venezuelan Petroleum Inc., and by the Japanese firm Marubeni International. As a result of this agreement, Venezuela has penetrated the Japanese market, which until now had been serviced exclusively by Middle East producers. The Venezuelan gas will have home and industrial uses in Japan. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1656 GMT 4 Nov 85 PA]

NARCOTICS CHIEFTAIN ACCUSED OF MURDERS ARRESTED

PA190446 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Nov 85 pp 4-A, 36-A

[By Tomas Cano Montufar]

[Excerpt] Isidoro Valdez Sanchez, chieftain of a band of narcotics traffickers who murdered 17 policemen and 4 local guides in Hidalgotitlan, has been arrested in the mountain range south of Veracruz and is currently being interrogated by the district attorney at Coatzacoalcos. The soldiers staged an 11-day operation in the mountains before they were able to arrest him.

Antonio Arevalo Sanchez, who was arrested 2 days after the bodies of the policemen were found on the banks of the Coatzacoalcos River and who was ordered by the attorney general to appear before a federal judge on charges of murder and crimes against health in all of its forms, has been formally imprisoned.

THIRD QUARTER FIGURES SHOW INFLATION 57 PERCENT

FL151950 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1430 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Nov (NOTIMEX) -- Fifty-seven-percent inflation, 75.6-percent depreciation of the peso on the free money market, worsening of the balance of trade, and a public deficit of 2.4 trillion pesos ($6.857 billion) are some of the most significant measures of the behavior of the economy during the third quarter. The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit gave the Chamber of Deputies a report yesterday on economic activity during the third quarter of 1985, in which the preceding data were presented. The report says the Mexican economy grew at a rate of more than 4 percent which, although it made more jobs available and increased industrial production, also led to inflation of 57 percent, greater than expected.

The economic upturn was accompanied by a worsening balance of trade, attributable to a large increase in imports and a drop in exports at the end of September, the report adds. The public deficit has reached 2.4 trillion pesos, which is almost the yearly deficit projected by the Mexican Government, so it is expected that the projected deficit will be surpassed during the last quarter.

The secretariat explained that domestic credit was used to finance this debt, obtaining credits from the banking system of 1.1 trillion pesos (more than $3.142 billion.) The secretriate added that credits of 444 billion pesos ($1.268 billion) were transferred to private and social sectors to encourage the productive sectors.

The net foreign debt increased only $26 million in relation to the net foreign debt in December 1984. This amount, the report adds, makes it possible to predict that for the 3d consecutive year the government will incur less net foreign debt than the Congress has approved, which is about $ 1 billion.

DELVALLE VIEWS HOLDING NATIONAL DIALOGUE

PA170447 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Nov 85

[Text] President Eric Arturo Delvalle, accompanied by his government staff, met this morning with officials of the Civil Aeronautics Directorate [DAC] headed by Director General Major Pascual Gonzalez to discuss topics concerning Panamanian civil aviation, its plans, needs, and programs to be developed. The meeting was held at the presidential room of the Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport with the participation of special guests Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon, representatives of the Panamanian Tourism Institute and the Immigration Department, Colonel Julio Ow Young, chief of the Defense Forces G-2, and other officials.

Among the topics discussed were plans for a new and modern air cargo terminal, the recently-installed information system for aviation, progress made in the 5-year plan for improving radio assistance equipment, and other topics concerning domestic and international airports. The Facilitations Committee FAL [not further identified] of the Omar Torrijos Herrera Airport also attended the meeting. The committee is made up of officials of all the government offices operating at the air terminal -- concessionaries, airline representatives, and authorities -- an organization created to seek solutions to the various problems of our main airport.

My administration will give immediate answers to the social problems of the country, said President Eric Arturo Delvalle during the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Concerning our problems, are you personally going to be discussing the problems affecting Panamanians?

[Delvalle] I will try to do so.

[Reporter] Mr President, various political and economic forces of the country have requested a national dialogue in the face of the political and economic crisis prevailing in the country. Would you be willing to hold a great national dialogue?

[Delvalle] Well, I think all parties should voice the same wish. However, I think there are still some bitter stands among the opposition and government groups. We have talked about this not only with politically interested groups, but also with the church, and, frankly speaking, we do not think the time is right. I would like for all Panamanians to be willing to reach a grand agreement, a grand social, political, national agreement that will both permit and guarantee that we can continue living in peace and harmony as we have been doing up until now.

[Reporter] Mr President, what conditions should prevail for that national dialogue?

[Delvalle] Well, I would say the main need is the willingness of the (?affected). There would be no preconditions or limits of subjects to be discussed. Only in that manner would we be willing to sit down for a national dialogue.

[Reporter] Legislator Jerry Wilson has proposed reducing the salaries of public officials earning over 1,000 balboas a month. As president, what do you think about reducing officials' salaries so that many unemployed Panamanians can have a better Christmas?

[Delvalle] Honorable Wilson presented a bill at the Assembly which is having problems, because some of his fellow Assembly members do not think this is the right way to establish employment. Personally, I am willing to give my voluntary contribution. I am sure many public officials would also do this, but we still do not have a very clear picture of how this will work out. The Assembly will have to make the decision.

[Reporter] Mr President, would you be willing to call the opposition leaders to that great national dialogue?

[Delvalle] There will be time for that later. [end recording]

CONATO DEMANDS PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET REVIEW

PA180058 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Conato [National Council of Organized Workers] will demonstrate in the streets to demand respect for its right to participate in the discussions of the national budget. We have been insisting -- not just now, but for a long time -- that this is our right and that the legislators have the obligation to give us that opportunity, because we have a fundamental interest in participating in the discussions of the national budget commissions. Basically, we are concerned about the issues of the educational tax, foreign debt, education, and health, because we have learned from news reports that there are large cuts in those areas. We, the workers' representatives, have that right, and therefore we demand our participation in that commission.

[Unidentified reporter] Members of the commission have pointed out that CONATO has not presented a formal request. Are you going to request this in writing?

[Ordonez] We are going to do it in writing, and if they ignore us or fail to attribute due importance to us, we will take to the streets to demonstrate. If we have to go to the Legislative Assembly and exert pressure to get their attention, we will have to do it once again. [end recording]

COSTA RICAN OIJ REVIEW SPADAFORA CASE

PA171831 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica -- The Costa Rican Judicial Investigation Organization (OIJ), which is investigating the Spadafora case in that country, has indications obtained through testimony that Spadafora may have been killed near the Panama-Costa Rica border. However, OIJ Director Fernando Cruz Castro said that this is not a definitive conclusion, only a possibility.

Cruz Castro issued this statement yesterday at the OIJ offices during a meeting with Panamanian Attorney General Manuel Jose Calvo. Calvo is in Costa Rica on a busy working visit. District Attorney Espinosa and Panamanian newsmen are travelling with him.

"I am unable to say there is definite proof regarding the identity of the culprits. We have indications only that the crime was committed by several persons who may have used a four-wheel drive beige or white vehicle. However, the information is somewhat vague, and this prevents our making a definitive statement," the OIJ chief said.

Regarding the testimony of Costa Rican witnesses, Cruz Castro said: "We have been led to believe that Hugo Spadafora may have crossed the border into Panama."

However, he stressed that he could not establish precisely how Spadafora was arrested and later found dead. He did say that such a line of developments was evident. Cruz Castro expressed pessimism over the results of the investigation in Costa Rica. "It is very difficult," he said.

Meanwhile, Panamanian Attorney General Manuel Jose Calvo told members of the local press that the fact that Cruz Castro did not affirm that the late doctor-turned-guerrilla was killed in Panama shows that this is mere speculation without legal foundation.

The Panamanian attorney general gave the OIJ a copy of the file on the investigations carried out by the Panamanian Attorney General's Office.

Asked about the possibility that the Costa Rican and Panamanian authorities would make a joint effort to resolve the Spadafora murder, on which the Costa Rican and Panamanian authorities have issued differing statements, he said: "There is undoubtedly a jurisdiction problem here. We have overwhelming evidence that the killing occurred in Costa Rica; however, the Panamanian Attorney General's Office cannot investigate in Costa Rica because of jurisdiction considerations," he said.

Calvo also discussed the fact that the OIJ has not asked Panamanian authorities for assistance in the investigation.

Asked whether he believes the case wil be resolved, Calvo said: "The way in which the crime was committed and the condition in which the body was found lead us to believe that no evidence on who committed the crime was left behind."

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK CHANGES IN CONTADORA DOCUMENT

PA190251 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Gerardo Trejos has said that during the plenipotentiaries' meeting to be held in Panama City starting tomorrow, Costa Rica will seek, through proposals, to improve the Contadora peace document. Without saying what kind of proposals Costa Rica will present, Trejos said that every possible effort should be made so that the document can be signed by all the Central American countries in order that the region's problems can be resolved. The plenipotentiaries will meet in Panama City to continue their efforts to reach an accord regarding the basic points of the peace document that Nicaragua has said it will not sign.

According to Trejos, who will leave for Panama in the morning, Cuba has been pressuring Nicaragua into not signing the Contadora document. Trejos feels that the only possible explanation for the fact that the Sandinist government has changed its mind regarding the peace document is the existence of strong international pressures.

As we all know, after the Sandinist regime announced several weeks ago that it would sign the document, it has now stressed that it will not because it feels the United States has a political interest in the current peace document.

Efforts 'To Continue'

PA190343 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Nov 85 p 2

[Text] The government issued a brief statement yesterday indicating that if the Contadora Group falls through it will fully support other initiatives to bring peace to the region. The government has decided to continue to work within the Contadora Group framework if Contadora prevails.

It was said that Costa Rica wants to continue to participate in the Contadora Group to help other area countries to arrive at solutions in view of the situation the country is experiencing. [sentence as published]

Within the next several days President Luis Alberto Monge will issue a statement on the Costa Rican neutrality policy (which was declared 3 years ago next Monday) and on Costa Rica's participation in the Contadora Group. On Monday the president will make an announcement with respect to the Central American crisis.

MONGE MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF NEUTRALITY PROCLAMATION

PA191735 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge said last night, upon commemorating the second anniversary of the proclamation of Costa Rica's neutrality, that neutrality is democracy's insurance against war. The defense and consolidation of peace in Costa Rica is the government's leading political imperative, he said.

Monge said: Social peace in the country and peace with dignity abroad. [sentence as heard] He added that our most cherished heritage is our devotion to peace not only as an absence of conflict, but as a basic element for strengthening our democracy.

Neutrality is democracy's insurance against war, and for this reason we are actively participating in the Contadora Group's regional peace efforts, he noted. Peace, like freedom, is not an original state. We must rebuild peace day by day because, like freedom, it is not an original state. It is easy to lose peace and almost impossible to recover it because the path to its dissolution is cobbled with deep rancors and wounds that are hard to heal. Monge added that peace can be lost even among countries that are bound by geography and history, and warned that we must develop better human living standards to strengthen and preserve peace. We must have faith in the possibility of enjoying a free and happy existence, he said.

On behalf of my fellow countrymen I offer Costa Rica's perpetual, active, and demilitarized neutrality as a contribution to the universal struggle against war. Our neutrality, which lies at the root of the forging of our nationality, is a legal institution for the 21st century, the president remarked. Upon reiterating that Costa Rica is [word indistinct] participating in Contadora's regional peace efforts and after thanking Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, and Mexico for their endeavors, Monge said that we know how to seriously interpret the signs of the times and realize that Contadora is facing ever larger obstacles.

Costa Rica does not want to be a victim of political naivete. Stressing that Costa Rica wants Contadora to succeed, President Monge said that we will not be victims of political naivete. In view of the ominous possibility that Contadora will fail, we are making our own decisions to isolate ourselves from the regional conflagration if open war breaks out. Historically, neutrality has been a Costa Rican option against the chronic area military conflicts. For this reason, we have reinstated it not only as a traditional policy but as a legal institution binding the state.

I said in 1983 that it was either Contadora or war. Now, in face of the likelihood of Contadora's failure, I say neutrality or war, the president said, noting that during the 24 months that have passed since the proclamation of the perpetual, active, and demilitarized neutrality the government has gained valuable experience from the renewed application of the policy of neutrality as a unilateral action by the Costa Rican state with international legal validity. It is for this reason that we have decided to submit a bill on neutrality to the Legislative Assembly, Monge asserted.

EL SALVADOR

FMLN RELEASES DOCUMENT ON DIALOGUE STANCE

PA200023 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2050 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Excerpt] We have received a telephone call at Cadena Sonora's press department from NOTISAL in Mexico, we believe. We have a very important report. Let us hear what NOTISAL has for us.

[Unidentified reporter] This is a SALPRESS and NOTISAL report for Radio Sonora. Peace is a matter of national interest, and in order to achieve it through dialogue, a consensus of all Salvadorans is necessary, the Salvadoran guerrillas' general command said yesterday in announcing its position for the resumption of the process of dialogue and negotiation broken by the government a year ago.

At a press conference held in rebel territory in Chalatenango Department, guerrilla leader Commander Leonel Gonzalez distributed a document expressing the need for the belligerent parties to adopt public measures and commitments to guarantee the continuation of the peace talks.

Commander Leonel Gonzalez was accompanied by Commanders Dimas Rodriguez and Ricardo Contreras. THE WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW YORK TIMES, LOS ANGELES TIMES, THE MIAMI HERALD, DALLAS MORNING NEWS, CBS, NBC, SALPRESS, and NOTISAL representatives were present at the news conference.

The document of the FMLN general command also states that the main guarantee of the seriousness with which each party will participate in the dialogue is that the adoption of substantial agreements should be of a public nature, that it should be held in El Salvador, and that the solutions proposed by the two parties should be open to all the national sectors. The document adds that what determines if the dialogue will lead to peace and to the solution of the conflict are not the intentions behind each party, but the fairness of their positions and the support they have from the nation's majority sectors.

The rebels maintained that the proposal for an overall solution of the conflict presented in Ayagualo last year by the FMLN-FDR is serious and realistic, and could serve as a basis for a political negotiated solution. This proposal calls for gradual and progressive achievements to end the war, to be accomplished in three phases: the recovery of our national sovereignty from the United States, the suspension of hostilities, and the institutionalization of democracy based on the achievements made during the negotiating process.

For its part, Napoleon Duarte's government has refused to discuss these proposals, and has conditioned the dialogue on the rebels laying down their weapons. In addition, it has refused to admit the existence of two powers in El Salvador, with well-defined political, military, and territorial boundaries, since both the FMLN and the government share the control and administration of the country.

We are an expanding and progressive political and military force. We are confident in our victory, and we seek dialogue and a negotiated solution because we want to prevent further levels of intervention in our homeland, to rescue our national independence, and to avoid a greater social cost for our people, the rebels' general command stressed. This was a special service by SALPRESS and NOTISAL for Radio Sonora.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON ASTEL STRIKE

PA192149 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Government communique read by Culture and Communications Minister Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] As the Salvadoran people are aware, some workers of the National Telecommunications Administration [ANTEL] who belong to or sympathize with the Salvadoran Association of Telecommunications Workers, ASTEL, have been on a strictly politically motivated strike since 8 November. On this matter, the Government wishes to make the following known:

1. The ASTEL communique issued on that day literally reads as follows: The incident that led to this conflict was the arbitrary arrest of our secretary for national and international relations Humberto Centeno and his two sons. The government says that Humberto Centeno has never been arrested or detained as ASTEL leaders are affirming, but quite the opposite, that as a renewed show of a humanitarian attitude and respect for human rights, he was allowed to accompany his two sons to the Treasury Police garrison.

2. According to statements by ASTEL leaders, which have been amply disseminated by the news media, the work stoppage aims to obtain the release of the sons of Humberto Centeno, members of ASTEL's Executive Committee who were arrested along with four other members of the FAL [Armed Forces of Liberation] for their involement in the kidnapping of Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos. It has been made apparent to the entire Salvadoran people, and especially to reporters who have interviewed them, that statements by Jose Adilio Escobar Ventura, [word indistinct], chief of the FAL cell to which the Centeno brothers belong, and who recruited them for this moment, as well as statements by Jose Vladimir, Roberto, and Jaime Ernesto [name indistinct], Centeno Lopez are spontaneous and genuine.

3. When ASTEL leaders learned the truth, refused to admit it, and urged the workers to maintain the strike, they confirmed that in fact this is a political action to support a terrorist act conducted by the FAL, the armed wing of the Communist Party and a group within the FMLN. In order to hide their intentions, the ASTEL leaders are trying to raise a smoke screen, by making last minute accusations and demands.

4. In today's communique, ASTEL tries to compare this action with crimes committed by the FMLN, as if the kidnapping of innocent persons could be compared with the legitimate actions carried out by the authorities, who, complying with their duty to fight terrorism, captured six individuals involved in a kidnapping. Two of these individuals, who confessed their personal and direct participation in the crime happen to be the sons of a labor leader, just as the other four are sons of other persons.

5. We understand a father's just concern for what his sons may have done and the consequences of their actions. However, we believe that his concern and his pain cannot be a pretext or serve as an instrument for the FMLN's destabilization plans and manipulation, which the FMLN has no scruples in denying, in order to distort the truth and create confusion. The Centeno brothers have not been tortured or drugged, and this has been professionally confirmed by humanitarian organizations and national journalists. Because the work stoppage is partial, there have been attempts to intimidate the workers who want to comply with their duty. The members of the National Police who are currently at ANTEL's installations are only there to protect the workers and the installations.

6. It is opportune to stress that it is a usual practice of the associations directly or indirectly linked with the terrorist organizations to deny their participation in extortions, murders, and kidnappings, as the FDR did in the well-known cases of the Zona Rosa, the kidnappings of mayors and innocent women, and as the ASTEL leaders are now doing by denying the participation of the Centeno youths in the kidnapping of Col Avalos, despite the confession made by the authors themselves.

7. In addition, the government of the Republic wishes to stress another of ASTEL's lies, when it accused the authorities of attacking the workers' organizations. Everyone knows that, based on its humanitarian position, the government has shown understanding for the authentic labor movements and demands. This understanding would be completely out of place if applied to merely political movements, such as the strike promoted by the ASTEL.

8. One of the most convincing elements proving the political manipulation of the workers affiliated to ASTEL can be seen in the terrorist actions that have claimed the lives of innocent communications workers, which the leaders who today encourage a strike have never raised their voices to protest and demand respect for the human rights of their coworkers who have been victims of terrorism and inhuman treatment.

Finally, the government of the Republic reiterates that all the strikes of public employees, in addition to being illegal, directly affect all the Salvadorans whom the government workers serve. Furthermore, demanding funds that do not exist in the government's vaults, only contributes to the destabilization of our national economy and the country's democratic process.

San Salvador, 18 November 1985

End to Strike Urged

PA191816 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Report by Nelson Lopez]

[Excerpt] Colonel Mauricio Vides Casanova, general manager of ANTEL [National Telecomunications Administration], reported on the presence of military authorities at ANTEL's offices and installations.

[Begin recording] [Vides Casanova] I would like to mention something which, perhaps, you already know. I am talking about the presence of public security officers at the country's main stations; namely, the Roma, downtown, and San Miguelito stations, as well as the main offices. The officers are there because ANTEL workers who have been working and those that have chosen to return to their jobs have received threats and insults, and have been accused of being traitors and other things which are not worth mentioning. The officers are also there because we wanted to protect the workers who have remained on their jobs and those who have returned so that they may obtain the pay due for the work performed. In addition, the officers are there because we learned that there could be sabotages of ANTEL's installations and equipment. The officers are present because persons who do not work for ANTEL were entering the premises to harass the workers, deceive them, and keep them on a strike that is seriously hurting the country, the workers, and the Salvadoran people.

I want to appeal to ANTEL workers who have not returned to their jobs to do so today. Otherwise -- do not think that I am threatening you, this is a legal disposition, and we, as ANTEL managers, must enforce it -- if you do not return to your jobs we will be forced to implement the law and apply sanctions. We would not like to reach such extreme stances. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the sanctions that will be applied if the workers do not return?

[Vides] First, I would like to say that we did not think there would be any questions asked because the board of directors will be holding a meeting a few minutes from now, but I will gladly answer you. The sanctions that will be applied are contained in Decree No 292 and consists of docking the days not worked from this month's paycheck or suspensions of up to 30 days. In fact, in some cases, there could be dismissals. [end recording]

VICE PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON FDR, CONTADORA

PA191338 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1232 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Text] Madrid, 19 Nov (EFE) -- Salvadoran Vice President Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount announced today that a new meeting will be held "someplace in Europe at a still undetermined date" between a representative of his government and the leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR).

Castillo Claramount again justified the refusal of Salvadoran President Duarte to meet in Madrid with FDR leaders Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora, because "this type of meeting should be previously arranged in order to be productive."

The Salvadoran vice president denounced the "conflict" that exists between the political-diplomatic sectors of the FDR and the rebel commanders, which has caused a "harsh and terrorist acts" in their strategy.

According Castillo Claramount, "to speak to Ungo or Zamora is like not talking to an important decision-making sector such as the guerrilla commanders who do not let the responsible politicians know of their actions." [sentence as received] Despite everything, he estimated that Jose Napoleon Duarte's government will maintain its offer to dialogue to "humanize the war and to halt the continuation of the massacre of the Salvadoran people."

"We are going to maintain dialogue because we recognize the ethical demand of the Salvadoran peoples, but that dialogue must be sincere and serious, not of a tactical nature for anyone," he added.

For the Salvadoran vice president the La Palma meeting "was a hope," the second Ayagualo meeting was "a war harangue" and the third meeting to be held must be based on the "real situation of the country, which has a government as legitimate as the Spanish Government."

He rejected the FDR proposals as "inadmissible" in attempting to create two armies, to suspend the current Constitution, and to initiate a provisional government and a constituent process that will lead to new elections.

Regarding the new Contadora meeting that begins in Panama today, Castillo Claramount was quite skeptical about its results and said that the recent letter by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had returned the situation to the document of September 1984, which makes everything more difficult.

Despite the fact that there is an agreement of 60 percent of the topics, the most important part related to demilitarization, maneuvers and military advisers is still unresolved," he said.

The Salvadoran vice president requested "positive pressure" by Europe to prevent the bipolarity on the continent and to promote the pluralist democratic process in Central America.

Castillo Claramont is in Madrid to participate in the second Europe-Ibero-American meeting that opens today at the Institute of Ibero-American Cooperation.

HONDURAS

ALVAREZ LETTER DENOUNCES DISCHARGE FROM ARMY

PA191450 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1241 GMT 19 Nov 85

[Letter Written by former General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez dated 11 November in Miami --read by announcer]

[Text] Miami, 11 November 1985 Denouncing an infamy!

Psalm 35: Fight against them, O Lord, that fight against me.
Say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.
Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul:
Let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.
For without cause they hid for me their net in a pit,
Which without cause they have digged for my soul.
Let destruction come upon him at unawares;
And let his net that he hath hid catch himself:
Into that very destruction let him fall. [as heard]

Honduran people, gentlemen officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and auxiliary personnel of our Armed Forces:

It was my firm purpose to remain silent because I wanted to protect the calm and safety of my family in Honduras since my statements on 13 August 1984 unleashed the persecution and intimidation of my family, an attack on my private home by a platoon of soldiers, the usurpation of private documents and property, and the harassment of my close friends. The Honduran people learned of these actions and it was obvious that these actions were carried out by members of the Armed Forces with the authorization and approval of a group of usurping, seditious officers headed by the illegitimate commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Such actions are typical of a totalitarian regime.

Now, in view of the infamy committed by dishonorably discharging me through the use of arbitrary and irregular procedures, I will no longer remain silent. I know the risk my family and country will face, but they are aware of my reasons and the right to defend myself. I pray to Christ, Our Lord, that He give them strength and protect them.

For a dishonorable discharge to be valid it must be handled by the appropriate court and I, as the slandered person, should have the right to be present at the hearing. In my case it would have been risky and unwise for me to be present because the charges against me were supported and promoted by the same group of usurping, seditious officers who handcuffed and expelled me from the country. No individual whose life is in danger can be forced to be present. These gentlemen knew that even if I was subpoenaed I would not appear at the hearing. However, theycould have called my brother Armando Alvarez Martinez, a lawyer, to represent me because I signed a legal document that makes him my legal representative and the Armed Forces are aware of this.

I can also add that my legal representative and other lawyers checked the civil courts and military courts to see if there were any charges against me and to request a copy of those charges. They did this in an attempt to prepare my defense, a right guaranteed to me in the Constitution of the Republic. Article 82: The right to defense is inviolable; Article 94: Sentence will not be passed until the guilty party is heard and found guilty in a trial.

I stress that despite the efforts made by my legal representative, a notice was not sent to him. Quite the contrary, my case was maliciously handled behind closed doors. This action culminated in the infamous, illegal decision to dishonorably discharge me. It is quite evident that it was not convenient for my defamers to follow the established procedures; after all, they achieved power through wicked, arbitrary, repudiable, illegal, and unconstitutional actions.

Honduran people, companeros: It is quite logical to deduce that the conspiracy that began with the shameful criminal actions against me on 31 March 1984, the day of the treason, ended on 15 October 1985 with my dishonorable discharge. With this action they sought to destroy my honor as a soldier and a citizen thereby invalidating the rights that I won throughout my years as a soldier, and to present me before the people and my companeros as an outlaw.

This is the way I am rewarded for all my efforts to improve myself and win my promotions and offices through which I honored the armed institution and gave my all to promote the real professionalism of the branch so that it would become a true guarantor of the defense of the homeland and its democratic institutions.

Throughout the history of our institution, no Armed Forces commander in chief, despite his good or bad actions, had ever been the target of such villany and perversity. This reality is proven by the crimes committed against me and against my authority as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. I was arrested, handcuffed, and kidnapped for 3 hours, and violently expelled from the country. Also, and with the complicity of the president of the Republic, they lied to the National Assembly presenting a false document and saying that it was my resignation. I must stress that I never saw, nor did I sign a resignation. If I had signed such a resignation it would not be valid because this would have been done under pressure, and the law clearly states that all documents signed under pressure are not valid. I hereby wish to reiterate that I did not sign a resignation.

To this we must add the pressure exerted on the National Assembly by the president of the Republic, through a political action, and the seditious group, by surrounding the National Assembly with armed personnel carriers in an attempt to intimidate the deputies and force them to accept the false resignation and the illegitimate appointment of my substitute. That group of usurpers and seditious men who committed the above-mentioned crimes committed them with arrogance and without thinking of their actions and the consequences that such actions would have on the future. Today, in a desperate attempt to hide those crimes, they are trying to distract the attention from the real guilty parties by slandering me and disgracing my honor as a soldier, and presenting me before you as the most vicious officer, as someone who has committed worse crimes than they have. According to them in this manner they will achieve your pardon and cast their crimes into oblivion.

[Signed] Gustavo A. Alvarez M.

NICARAGUA

RAMIREZ REFUTES OBANDO Y BRAVO STATEMENTS

PA160259 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado was compelled to clarify statements made by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to a Spanish newspaper, implying that the Sandinist Government maintains a tenacious persecution against the Catholic Church. Ramirez Mercado said it has been reasserted that the state of national emergency in Nicaragua is aimed at neutralizing counterrevolutionary activities and subversive policies, and do not affect the people's various activities in the least. The Spanish newspaper ABC reported, based on the Cardinal's statements, that the Catholic Church in his country is facing many problems because religious ceremonies and activities have been banned by the state of emergency.

UNO'S ROBELO SAYS DIALOGUE PROPOSAL STILL OPEN

PA180155 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Nov 85

[Text] In a message delivered yesterday afternoon during an international forum on Nicaragua's situation, Alfonso Robelo of UNO [Nicaraguan Opposition Unity] said that UNO's proposal for a dialogue with Managua is still open. Robelo also said that the UNO democrats are (?motivated) by the need to replace the totalitarian regime imposed by the Sandinist military dictatorship in Nicaragua. In addition, he said that they advocate a genuinely democratic system in which all Nicaraguans can participate.

UNO also feels that a political solution for the regional crisis should be given top priority and that the FSLN should be forced to accept this solution through the use of arms. The document, signed by Robelo, Arturo Cruz , and Adolfo Calero, also stressed that the FSLN has failed as a historical alternative for the Somoza dictatorship because the FSLN has become an instrument for interests alien to Nicaraguan nationality.

In contrast, UNO will continue to be an organization committed to pluralism, freedom, democracy, and human rights.

CABINET MEETING ORGANIZES COFFEE HARVEST MEASURES

PA191706 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Excerpt] Commander Daniel Ortega, Nicaraguan President, called an expanded cabinet meeting today to discuss each ministries' contribution to the coffee harvest. Carlos Carrion, minister-delegate of the presidency for Region 3, said that it was agreed at the meeting that the state sector will contribute 5,000 brigade members for the coffee harvest. Carrion also said that President Ortega outlined the significance of the coffee harvest for the country because due to various reasons there are deficits in the other export products and these deficits could be offset by an increase in coffee production.

The meeting, which was headed by the president and vice president, was attended by all of the ministers and deputy ministers. They also agreed that in the next few hours each ministry will analyze the projects that can be suspended so that their personnel can join the production tasks.

Such institutions as the Sinacoi [Fire Prevention System], IRENA [Institute of Natural Resources], and the Culture and Education Ministries will study the feasibility of a temporary total closure.

[Begin Carrion recording] The meeting of the expanded cabinet was called by the president to evaluate preparations for the coffee harvest, specifically with regard to the mobilization of the workers at state institutions to the coffee plantations in Region 6 to pick coffee. In the meeting we stressed the importance of coffee at this time because it is the highest priced export product and by exceeding the coffee harvest goals we can partially compensate for the drop in prices of other export products. The president wanted to make the importance of the fulfillment of the harvest goals clear and that the appropriate measures to achieve this should be adopted. This means that some institutions will analyze the programs that can be suspended in order to participate in the coffee harvest. [end recording]

OPPOSITION BLAMES SANDINISTS FOR CONTADORA FAILURE

PA180313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2115 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Excerpt] San Jose, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE) -- At a forum held in this capital, the anti-Sandinist opposition agreed that the Contadora Group's peace negotiations are on the verge of failure.

Participants at the forum, held this weekend, included Alfonso Robelo, leader of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, and Adolfo Calero, military-political leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). The latter participated from his office in Washington.

The view that prevailed at the meeting was that the Contadora Group's efforts have failed due to the Sandinist government's refusal to sign the version of the peace and cooperation document officially proposed by the group's member countries.

In view of this circumstance, the forum's final recommendation was that an effort must be made to achieve the unity of the forces that oppose the regime in Managua.

Another conclusion called for exerting political pressure so that the OAS will resume its 17th meeting, which opened in June 1979 and contributed to Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza's downfall. The continental organization did not close that meeting, waiting for its agreements to be fulfilled. These agreements included the obligation of the government that succeeded Somoza to establish a pluralist and democratic regime, something which, in the opinion of the anti-Sandinists, has not been done.

ECUADORAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

PA182021 Paris AFP in Spanish 1937 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Nov (AFP) -- Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero arrived today at the Santo Domingo Airport for a 3-day official visit. On hand to greet him at the airport were his Dominican counterpart Jorge Blanco, members of the cabinet, civil and military authorities, and the diplomatic corps.

Leaders Discuss Cooperation

PA190310 Paris AFP in Spanish 2312 GMT 18 Nov 85

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Nov (AFP) -- The possibilities of cooperation between Latin American democracies were underscored today by Presidents Leon Febres Cordero of Ecuador and Salvador Jorge Blanco of the Dominican Republic, shortly after the former's arrival for a 3-day official visit.

"You represent a consolidated democracy, and I also preside over a democracy which feels strong," Jorge Blanco said when welcoming his counterpart at Las Americas International Airport, accompanied by his ministers, civilian and military authorities, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Febres Cordero replied that he came to search for a strengthening of the bonds of friendship between the two countries through specific agreements.

The problems of peace on the continent, bilateral cooperation agreements, and the economic situation in the region will be the main topics included on the agenda to be discussed by the two presidents and their respective work commissions. The two leaders held their first work meeting this afternoon at the government palace at 1700.

Jorge Blanco will host a reception tonight to award Febres Cordero the Duarte, Sanchez, and Mella Order of Merit, in the grade of Grand Cross, Gold Badge, the highest distinction awarded by the Dominican Government.

REFORMIST LEADER SAYS LIMIT OF INDEBTEDNESS REACHED

FL161538 Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Nov 85

[Text] Reformist leader (Luis Julian Perez) has said that the Dominican Republic exhausted its capacity for indebtedness some time ago. The former governor of the Central Bank said the country cannot continue using borrowed money to further worsen the economic crisis. He said he is not opposed to negotiating soft loans payable within 30 to 40 years at low interest rates, provided the loans are for productive works, but unfortunately the loans the country's authorities are getting are used exclusively to improve the country's balance of payments and to make more money available to the political leaders.

Perez described the practice as criminal after saying that the Dominican people cannot be loaded down with more debts.

JAMAICA

SEAGA RULES OUT PARTICIPATION IN FEDERATION

FL181447 Bridgetown CANA in English 2301 GMT 17 Nov 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 17, CANA -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga tonight reaffirmed his country's commitment to regional cooperation and economic integration but seemingly ruled out participation in any future attempt at federation by Britain's former colonies in the Caribbean.

In a toast to visiting Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers at an official dinner, Seaga noted the resurfacing recently of the issue of federation as a possible means of strengthening the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom). All I need say is -- interesting, declared the Jamaican leader in a light vein. But he added: The government and people of Jamaica remain fully committed to the programme of regional cooperation and economic integration. He continued: Secondly, I am not aware of any change in the mandate of the Jamaican people which was given in 1961 on this matter, and thirdly, my government does not propose to hold another referendum.

A four-year-old federal experiment broke up on the eve of its independence on 1962 after Jamaica withdrew on a mandate provided in a referendum here. The federation was supported by the People's National Party (PNP) of the then premier, Norman Manley who called the referendum on the agitation of Alexander Bustamante's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), which Seaga now leads. Shortly after the referendum, Bustamante won national elections and in 1962 also took Jamaica separate independence. Regional countries later developed the functional cooperation and regional trading grouping, Caricom.

Seaga said that Chambers visit to Jamaica -- the first official visit by a Trinidadian prime minister -- not only strengthened ties between two regional countries but has also made possible this opportunity to underscore ... the special nature and importance of our Caricom relationship. This was important, Seaga suggested, because the press appeared to focus only on issues which would seem to suggest that there are problems between member states.

Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago differed sharply over the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in 1983 and have quarrelled over the issue of trade because of Port-of-Spain's institution of licencing systems to protect the outflows of hard currency and Kingston's hefty devaluation of its currency which made regional imports expensive, plus what Trinidadian exporters said were difficulties in getting payments. They recently signed a bilateral agreement to smooth out trade.

Seaga said that over the years, Port-of-Spain and Kingston had always been able to work to find solution to bilateral problems and maintain a common front in the various international fora where a regional approach clearly strengthened their negotiating position. It is against such a record that it can confidently be expected that such problems as may arise from time to time can be speedily resolved to our mutual advantage, the Jamaica prime minister said.

He also praised Chambers for a most noteworthy contribution to the political process in Trinidad and Tobago and his commitment to regionalism.